



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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OCT 22 2013

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

Mr. Barry Burnell, Administrator
Water Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

Re: Approval of the Mid Snake River/Succor Creek Tributaries TMDLs, 2013 Addendum
(HUC: ID17050103)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Mid Snake River/Succor Creek Tributaries Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), dated October 9, 2013, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on October 11, 2013. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve seven TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the table below.

Waterbodies Addressed by the TMDLs

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Pollutant
Birch Creek—upstream of Castle Creek Road to Snake	ID17050103SW021_03 ID17050103SW021_04	Total Suspended Solids (TSS)
Hardtrigger Creek—headwaters to Snake River	ID17050103SW008_02	Sediment (bank stability)
McBride Creek—headwaters to Oregon line	ID17050103SW004_02 (lower) ID17050103SW004_03 (upper)	Sediment (bank stability)
Pickett Creek—Bates Creek confluence to Browns Creek confluence	ID17050103SW016_03	Sediment (bank stability)
Vinson Wash—Poison Creek confluence to mouth*	ID17050103SW023_03	Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

* This waterbody is on Idaho's 2010 303d List as impaired for Combined Biota/Habitat Bioassessments which has been linked to a sediment impairment.

Our review indicates that these allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the water quality standards addressed by these TMDLs. Therefore, the IDEQ does not need to include these waters on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for the pollutant(s) covered by these TMDLs.

This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for the proposed de-listing of waters within Hydrologic Unit Code

ID17050103 from the Idaho §303(d) list. Any proposed de-listing of waters will be considered at the time of submission of the next §303(d) list of impaired waters.

This submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs. The IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. The EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA); therefore, the EPA is not taking action on these strategies. Implementation is the critical next step to realize improvements in water quality, and we encourage IDEQ to continue their work with responsible parties on implementation of these strategies.

We would like to recognize Mr. Troy Smith's hard work and cooperation in bringing these TMDLs to completion.

By the EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the CWA. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-1855, or your staff may call Jayne Carlin of my staff at (206) 553-8512.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Mr. Doug Conde, Attorney General, Idaho
Mr. Mike McIntyre, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ
Ms. Marti Bridges, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ
Mr. Pete Wagner, Boise Regional Administrator, Boise Regional Office, IDEQ
Mr. Lance Holloway, Watershed Manager, Boise Regional Office, IDEQ
Mr. Troy Smith, Watershed Coordinator, Boise Regional Office, IDEQ
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice